Centre/Commodities	1989-90	1991
	16-10-90	6-11-91
Hyderabad	2·50	5·00
Madras	3·00	6·00
ONIONS		
Delhi	6·50	6·00
Patna	6·00	5·75
Bhubaneshwar	5·00	5·00
Bombay	4·50	4·50
Hyderabad	2·25	3·50
Madras	3·50	4·50
SALT (Loose)		
Patna	1·20	1·25
Bhubaneshwar	1·50	1·50
Panaji	1·50	2·00
Hyderabad	0·90	1·10
Madras	1·00	1·00

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

Supply of Kerosene in Orissa

692. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been severe scarcity of sugar and kerosene in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to enhance the allocation of sugar and kerosene oil to that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Levy sugar allocations to most States/Uts, including Orissa, are made on the uniform norm of providing 425 grams per capita monthly availability for the projected population as on 1-10-1986. A 5 per cent increase on these allocations have been given from August to December, 1991. Besides, additional festival quota has been given to Orissa alongwith October, 1991 quota. Free sale quota is also released in the country, every month.

In view of constraints on the availability of kerosene, it is presently not been found possible to given additional allocations of kerosene to Orissa, as requested for.

PDS supplies are supplemental in nature. Distribution with in the State is managed by the State Government.

693. [*Transferred to the 6th December, 1991*].

Price of essential commodities

694. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken, so far, for bringing down the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains, pluses, edible oils, soaps and detergents, sugar, gur and Khandsari and spices since June, 1991 month-wise;

(b) to what extent the prevailing retail and wholesale prices of each of these items have increased/decreased during the period, giving comparative prevailing prices during June and November, 1991 and corresponding figures for 1990 month-wise; and

(c) what are the details regarding domestic consumption of edible oil during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Government takes appropriate steps on regular basis to keep the prices of essential commodities under check. A statement showing the steps taken in this direction for specific commodities is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) A comparative statement showing the month-end wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities at selected centres from June, 1991 to November, 1991 (latest available) with the corresponding figures in 1990 alongwith variations in prices during the period is given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 14).

(c) The 1991-92 oil year has just commenced from November, 1991. The estimated net edible oil available for consumption during the year is likely to be around 56 lakh metric tonnes.

Statement

Steps taken to bring down the prices of essential commodities

Foodgrains

Rice: The allocation of rice from the central pool for PDS has been stepped up from the average of 8.65 lakh tonnes during the period January-June 1991 to about 10.2 lakh tonnes for the period July-November 1991. It has been decided to sell a quantity upto 3 lakh tonnes of rice in the open market in some of the important cities in the country. The export of non-basmati rice has been restricted to 7 lakh tonnes as against the original decision of the Government to export 10 lakh tonnes during the current year.

Wheat: Inspite of less procurement of wheat during the current year as compared to last year, the allocation of wheat from the central pool to various States/UTs for the public distribution system during April-November, 1991 is of the order of 7.02 million tonnes as compared to 5.9 million tonnes during the corresponding period of last year. The Government has decided to sell upto 3 lakh tonnes of wheat in the open market to stabilise the price line. It has been decided to restrict the export of wheat to a total of 8 lakh tonnes during the current year as against 10 lakh tonnes decided earlier.

Pulses: Steps are being taken from time to time to increase the production of pulses. Their availability is being augmented through import. Pulses are imported under Open General Licence.

Edible Oils: It has been decided to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of Palmolein to improve the domestic availability of edible oils and to meet the growing need from States for the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Sugar, Gur and Khandsari: The prices of these commodities are already at reasonable levels.

Other Items: The increase in prices of other items may be attributed to general shortfall in production, increased demand, increase in freight charges etc.

Shortage of edible oil

695. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of edible oil in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and